

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E. O. 11652: N. A.

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT; NARCOTICS: FREY REPORT

1. REPORT BY CONGRESSMEN FREY, KYROS AND HASTINGS ON
NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN COUNTRIES THEY VISITED
JAN- FEB. 1973 TO BE ISSUED APRIL 25 OR 26.

2. ADVANCE COPY OF REPORT HAS BEEN GIVEN DEPARTMENT AND
COPIES OF PAGES ABOUT THAILAND BEING AIRPOUCHED; FULL
REPORT WILL BE SENT WHEN AVAILABLE.

3. REPORT DISCUSSES UPLANDS TRIBESMEN, CIF, TRAWLER
TRAFFIC, SNO, AND CROP SUBSTITUTION. MOST STRIKING
POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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4. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EFFORTS OF THE THAI'S NOW AND IN THE PAST IS TREMENDOUS AS THE RESULTS SHOW. TOO MANY TIMES WE HAVE HEARD ONLY THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS. REAL EFFORTS, THANKS IN A LARGE PART TO U. S. PRESSURE, ARE BEING MADE. THE THAI GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE THANKED AND THEN ENCOURAGED TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON. MUCH MORE, OBVIOUSLY, REMAINS TO BE DONE."

5. THE UN PROGRAM " APPEARS TO BE LAGGING BADLY... AND COULD BE ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSING BEFORE IT BEGINS. THE ONLY PROGRESS HAS BEEN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING SITE FOR EXTENSION WORKER NEAR CHAING MAI."

6. , THE AMERICAN MISSION HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT IN 1971 WITH THE THAI'S TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE PLANES AND EQUIPMENT TO MAKE A THOROUGH AERIAL SURVEY OF BOTH THE GROWING AND TRAFFICKING AREA. THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, WHICH ADMINISTERS SECTION 408 (SIC) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1971, DISAPPROVED THE REQUEST BECAUSE IT DIDN' T FIT INTO THEIR LONG- TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS. AID REVERSED THEIR POSITION IN SEPTEMBER 1972. NOW, HOWEVER, THE THAI' S, CHAGRINED AT AID' S EARLIER REFUSAL, WILL NOT COOPERATE.,

7. " THE CIF... APPEAR TO HAVE REDUCED SOMEWHAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN ILLICIT NARCOTICS ACTIVITY.... NONETHELESS, THE CIF APPEAR TO BE EMPLOYING THEIR MOUNTAINOUS BASE AREAS AS OPIUM WAREHOUSES, APPARENTLY AWAITING A MORE FAVORABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE BEFORE RESUMING THEIR PROFITABLE TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES. MEANWHILE, THEY SEEM TO BE BACKING RIVAL BURMESE INSURGENT GROUPS WHICH ARE SERVING AS CIF SURROGATES...."

8. " TWENTY- SIX TONS OF OPIUM TURNED OVER BY THE CIF WAS BURNED. THE PROJECT INVOLVED \$4 MILLION (SIC) FROM THE UNITED STATES AND \$850,000 CONTRIBUTED BY THE THAIS."

9. REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THAILAND ARE:" A) A VIABLE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM AGAINST AN ENFORCEMENT BACKGROUND HAS POSSIBILITIES OF SUCCESS IN THAILAND. HOWEVER, IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED TO PREVENT ITS TOTAL COLLAPSE.

(1) AID SHOULD BE RELIEVED OF ITS INVOLVEMENT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVIDING PLANES FOR THE AERIAL SURVEY AND THE

AMERICAN EMBASSY GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE THAIS. NO PROGRESS IN THE CROP SUBSTITUTION CAN BE MADE UNTIL AN AERIAL SURVEY IS MADE.

(2) THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUNDS TO ESTABLISH AN ARTIFICIAL MARKET FOR THE BEANS WHICH ARE NOW BEING HARVESTED. SUCH FUNDS, WE UNDERSTAND, WOULD TOTAL LESS THAN \$100,000.

B) CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE CREATION OF AN OPIUM MONOPOLY UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL TO BUY UP THE OPIUM GROWN IN THAILAND, TOGETHER- WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SERIES OF ARTIFICIAL COMMODITY FUTURE MARKETS TO PURCHASE SUBSTITUTED CROPS. C) THE THAIS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SEAL OFF MAE SAI FROM TACHILEK AND PROVIDE FOR MORE STRINGENT CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT ALONG THE MAE KOK RIVEI WHICH SEPARATES THAILAND AND BURMA. D) NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN TO EXPLORE THE NEED (WHICH DOES

EXIST) AND MANNER IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES COULD PROVIDE MORE PATROL BOATS, FOR COASTAL SURVEILLANCE AND HELICOPTERS TO GIVE SNO THE CAPABILITY OF POLICING THE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS. E) THE USE OF U. S. NAVAL RESOURCES FOR SURVEILLANCE SHOULD BE EXPLORED. F) MORE EFFORT IS NEEDED TO BREAK THE SYNDICATES LOCATED IN BANGKOK AND INTERRUPT THE SALE OF BLACKMARKET WEAPONS TO THE BURMESE INSURGENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR RAW OPIUM. G) BOTH UNITED STATES AND THAI OFFICIALS SHOULD PRESSURE THE CIF TO LIVE UP TO THEIR AGREEMENT AND (1) CLOSE DOWN THEIR OPIUM WAREHOUSES, (2) SEVER THEIR TIES WITH THE BURMESE INSURGENTS, AND (3) RELOCATE. H) EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN THE ASSISTANCE OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO SEAL OFF THEIR SOUTHERN BORDER AND PREVENT THE KMT, KKY, AND CIF FROM USING IT AS A SANCTUARY. I) THE THAIS NEED TO STEP UP THEIR ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE GULF OF SIAM. J) WITH THE LARGE AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE THAT WILL REMAIN IN THAILAND AFTER THE VIETNAM WITHDRAWAL, EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ARREST INCREASED DRUG USAGE.

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